

who were required to obtain certified copies and eliminate many of the optional ones. It would not be unrealistic, I'm sure, to assume that an immediate 30 percent drop in copies issued and there will be not be as much in the fund as we anticipate and I'm worried about it. I am 100 percent in favor a child abuse program and I think at this point we should stand up and say it is important, probably one of the most important programs we have in this state and we should take the money where it should come from, from the general fund. The Office of Vital Statistics would be penalized severely for the benefit of another unrelated program and I think what we should do is be big enough to say that it is important and we should bring it out of the general fund. I think what we've done so far on child abuse is not enough. We've got to have more, but this is not the way to go about it. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Barrett, then Senator Landis.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this may come as some surprise to some of you, but Senator Chambers has succeeded in wounding the bill in terms of the surcharge in the amount of \$5.00 on marriage licenses. Inasmuch as the bill is now wounded and we're considering removing all references to all funding on the bill which distresses me considerably, I would like to rise at this point in support of the Chambers' position with the understanding that Senator Chambers work with me and with Senator Warner, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, who has also indicated an interest in working toward the preservation of this bill in terms of coming back with a funding mechanism on Select File. To me, this bill, the integrity of this bill is more important than a floor fight over whether the money shall come from birth certificates, marriage licenses or the general fund. I thought that the funding described in the bill was the way to go. It apparently is a mixed bag and this body is not totally ready to accept that concept. I understand full well the concerns of the body. I indicated a moment ago that I've had similar concerns over the past. I don't want to lose the bill particularly over where the money comes from. So with that in mind and a guarantee of support from Senators Warner and Chambers and in the spirit of cooperation, I support the Chambers amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Landis, with that being said, do